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HERO OF THE PLANTER

REFUTES SLANDERS PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORK EVENING POST.

General Robert Smalls Explains the Circumstances Surrounding Some Ancient Political History in South Carolina—His Hands Clean of Bribery—The Fight in Congress.

Editor Colored American:—In the Boston Transcript of the 15th inst. appears an article from its Washington correspondent, entitled "A Fortunate Negro." I am at a loss to know from what source the correspondent obtained such false, malicious and unwarranted interpretation of the records in the case. Humiliating as it is, knowing that every syllable of the production is fraught with falsehood, I still have no objection to the truthfulness of the democratic version of the case, whenever it pleases any one to make these infamous charges for the purpose of injuring me. I state emphatically that I have never in my life, either directly or indirectly, knowingly defrauded the State of South Carolina or the United States out of a single dollar. I did capture and take the steamer Planter out of Charleston harbor in May 1862, which vessel together with her armament and war munitions, I turned over to Rear Admiral Dupont, Commander of the Federal Fleet. This steamer with her equipment was worth at least \$75,000 and at war valuation upwards of \$100,000. This is to say nothing of the Planter's subsequent four years service to the Government, for all of which a generous Government through Secretary Gideon Wells, of the Navy, paid me \$1,500 and Congress after more than twenty years of pleading on the part of my friends and myself, passed a bill appropriating \$5,000, but deducting the \$1,500 paid me in 1862, thus making the entire amount received by me \$5,000.

Upon what semblance of truth did the correspondent base this infamous calumny? Assuredly not upon the official records. Were it not that he was the correspondent of such a valuable paper as the Transcript, I would be forced to conclude that he was suffering from a violent attack of delirium tremens, especially when he says that I was aided in my troubles by Gen. M. C. Butler. Gen. Butler has never in his life aided me, or attempted to do so to my recollection, except in 1876 at a meeting at Edgfield, S. C., when I arraigned him as the leader of the Hamburg riot or massacre, he threatened to and would have taken my life, had it not been for the fortunate intervention in my behalf of the U. S. troops stationed there by order of Gen. Grant. Gen. Benj. F. Butler of Mass., then a member of Congress

MEN OF THE HOUR



REUBEN S. SMITH, ESQ.

Washington's Popular Attorney-at-Law Read an Interesting Paper Before the Shiloh Lyceum Last Sunday.

with myself, at his residence, did instruct his law clerk to draw up the petition that is inclosed at the bottom of this article for a change of venue, and it is he, Gen. B. F. Butler of Mass., who rendered me assistance in getting my case before the U. S. Supreme Court.

Is it because I am an ardent supporter of Dr. W. D. Crum for the Collectorship of Charleston, or because friends of mine have forwarded a petition to the President asking that I be appointed U. S. Marshal as a promotion for valuable services rendered the Government in the war of the Rebellion? It is stated in that petition that it should not effect the appointment of Dr. Crum, leaving the entire matter to the decision to the President? Are these the causes for this uncalled-for letter of this correspondent? It is true that the office I now hold pays a small salary of \$1,000 per annum, with fees amounting to practically nothing.

The statement that I have bought a lot of land is, like the rest of the publication, absolutely without foundation in fact, which I greatly regret is not the case. If I am the richest Negro in the South, God help the Negroes of the South. I hope this correspondent, Mr. Lincoln, when he finds that his article is absolutely unfounded, will

contribute a portion of his large salary to aid some of our industrial schools for Negroes in the South, and if he is at a loss to know which one to help, I would refer him to Prof. Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee, Ala., or some of the Washington schools near there.

I know of no stronger argument and the truthfulness of the same, than my speech in Congress which is in the Congressional Record and was evidently either intentionally or ignorantly overlooked by this correspondent, which is submitted herewith.

Also see clipping from the Charleston News and Courier which was published subsequent to my reply to Senator Tillman in November, 1895, at the Constitutional Convention, which is similar to the speech which is on page 472 in the Journal of said convention.

The clipping referred to is here given: "No one can fail to be impressed with Gen. Smalls's earnest protestations, before God, of his innocence of the charge of bribe-taking of which he was convicted in 1877. He alone knows whether he was justly convicted or not, but we think that it is due to him to recall to the public knowledge the fact that he demanded a

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HISTORY OF THE NEGRO

RACE PROGRESS SHOULD BE TAUGHT.

This Contention Ably Sustained Before Bethel Literary and Historical Association by Prof. E. A. Johnson, Author of Two Comprehensive Chronicles of Negro Progress.

Prof. Edward A. Johnson, of Raleigh, N. C., author of "The History of the Negro Race," and "Negro Soldiers in the Spanish-American War," read a paper on the important subject of teaching Negro history in the public schools, before the Bethel Literary and Historical Association Tuesday evening. His paper was interesting from start to finish, and held the closest attention of his audience. It was withal one of the strongest papers that have been delivered before Bethel Literary Association in a long time. Prof. Johnson showed that history is a culture subject; that mathematics appeal to the reason, the sciences to the observation, but history appeals to all the senses. He also pointed out that many of the histories now taught in our public schools do not mention a single creditable act of a Negro, either in war or peace; simply referring to us as slaves; not even remarking that we made good slaves. Some of the pictures of groups representing the races of men shows the Negro as the worst of all, with rings in his nose and ears, and a lion's claw necklace around his neck, and only half clothed. This, he contended, was not the American type of Negro and to thus represent the race to the children was simply to teach them their own inferiority. He showed also that New England sought to stimulate her youth with a recital of the nobleness of her people, and that the Southern people would not allow any history taught their children that referred to the Southerners as rebels. This, he contended, was an example for ourselves, and couched his argument in most telling phrases.

The discussion which was one of the most brilliant and instructive series of talks to which Bethel has ever listened. It bristled in historical references, and amply justified the contention of the essayist that the race is stronger, more self-confident, and more thoroughly imbued with the spirit of aspiration through a knowledge of his own capabilities and achievements. Those who took part in the debate, all of whom heartily endorsing the remarks of the speaker of the evening were Messrs. R. S. Smith, T. M. Dent, G. G. Richardson, M. Wheeler, J. W. Cromwell, E. H. Hunter, and R. W. Thompson, and Mrs. Annie E. Hicks. Prof. Johnson

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